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**From Mediation to Nation Building: Third Parties and the Management of Communal Conflict, Edited by Joseph R. Rudolph Jr., and William J. Lahneman ISBN: 978-0739176948, 534 pages, £65.00/€77.26**

The many roles of third parties engaged with communal and civil conflicts, particularly those occurring since the early 1990s, has been the subject of a large body of scholastic work. Joseph Rudolph Jr. and William J. Lahneman's edited volume *From Mediation to Nation Building: Third Parties and the Management of Communal Conflict* contributes to this literature by exploring this aspect of contemporary conflicts, focussing on those efforts which attempt to reduce, constrain, or resolve conflict.

*From Mediation to Nation Building* does not suffer from a lack of high-quality content; on the contrary, it features valuable contributions to persistent debates conducted between academics and policymakers on how to respond to complex conflicts abroad. The problem lies within what appears to be disparate editorial guidelines for authors regarding length and structure of individual chapters, which, when collected together, do not inherently complement each other. This interdisciplinary, lengthy, edited volume on the topic of third party interventions in communal conflict would make a useful addition to the library of any university which teaches courses on international politics. However, it also challenges the notion that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

The book is arranged into four parts which reflect common ways, as identified by the editors, in which third parties become involved in communal conflicts: diplomacy, legal approaches, economic measures, military operations, and mentoring, political tutelage, and nation building. Within these parts are twenty-three chapters which broadly reflect on the different institutions and processes of management by external actors at various stages of conflict cycles.

Chapters which examine the drivers and constraints to the onset of communal conflict include Matthew Hoddie and Caroline Hartzell's argument that states under economic liberalization prescriptions are at greater risk of experiencing civil conflict (pp.171-187), and Joseph R. Rudolph, Jr.'s brief introduction to the relationships between election observers, democratization, and preventative diplomacy (pp.69-80). Third party involvement during ongoing conflicts is discussed regarding the use of international law (I.M. Lobo de Souza, pp.83-98), economic instruments for conflict resolution (Stephen D. Collins, pp.145-169) the role of diplomatic actors in Northern Ireland (Elham Atashi, pp.33-53), non-violent security provision in Sri Lanka (M.S. Wallace, pp.333-351), and military interventions in Somalia (David D. Laitin, pp.257-272), Bosnia-Herzegovina (Brigid Myers Pavilonis, pp.303-315) and Kosovo (Steven L. Burg, pp.273-301). A case that is not usually prominently discussed in literature on interventions in communal conflict is Neil Cruickshank's interesting contribution, which argues that the European Union's activities regarding Roma rights is an example of third party management of ethnic conflict between Roma and non-Roma in Central Europe (pp.211-231).

Many of the chapters explore third party management after violent conflict has ceased. The role of hybrid courts as a transitional justice mechanism in Bosnia, Kosovo, East Timor, Cambodia and Sierra Leone is studied comparatively by James DeShaw Rae (pp.127-142). DiJon Jones examines the ability of international actors to rebuild the Iraqi police force when challenged by extremists militias backed by foreign regimes (pp.317-332). Post-conflict liberal statebuilding, international administrations, and democratization efforts are all scrutinized in the cases of Afghanistan (Mohammad Ashraf, pp.369-387), Macedonia (Daniela Irrera, pp.463-477), Bosnia-Herzegovina (Sam Whitt, pp.389-418; Mateja Peter, pp.419-438; Donald R. Zoufal, pp.439-461) and Serbia (Victor Perskin and Mieczyslaw P. Boduszynski, pp.189-209).

Alongside these case studies are overviews and debates, such as Linda S. Bishai's critique of 'local turn' theories of liberal peace (pp.55-68), a comprehensive review of military interventions as a tool of conflict resolution in relation to Clausewitz' theories of warfare (William J. Lahneman, pp.235-255), and a long overview of the transition from the UN Human Rights Commission to the new Human Rights Council, in the context of international human rights interventions (David P. Forsythe, pp.99-126).

If this sounds like a lot to fit into one book, that's because it is. The sheer number of chapters can make it difficult at times for the reader to pull together the common threads which run throughout many of them. These include the importance of international norms, the limits of implanting institutions, the intentions which motivate intervention, hybridity of local and third-party actors; and age-old debates over sovereignty and the responsibility to protect. One of the reasons for this difficulty is the wide variety of lengths and structure between different chapters. Some of the chapters begin by presenting a long historical or theoretical context and only briefly tackle the central questions of the book, making them more suited to publication as individual journal articles. Others suffer from their brevity, as they titillate the reader by introducing interesting aspects of third-party conflict management before abruptly concluding without detailed investigation.

What the book does benefit from is its interdisciplinary nature. Scholars who are interested in critical questions about third party intervention and communal conflict can engage from a variety of theoretical backgrounds, methodologies, and perspectives. These questions are also explored using the experiences of several countries. However, there is a large reliance on insights from the former Yugoslavia, in particular Bosnia-Herzegovina. This reflects the editors' expertise in the region, and there is no denying that the intensity of third parties' ongoing engagement with the post-conflict states of the Western Balkans makes them rich cases to examine the topic from many different entry points.

This over-inclusion of lessons from Bosnia-Herzegovina, however, is at the cost of other potential case studies from beyond Europe. Possibilities from wider world include: successive United Nations peacekeeping missions in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Kofi Annan's role in forming a government out of Kenya's post-election violence; the Neutral Truce Monitoring Group of neighbouring states to Bougainville; the internationalised high-level peace process for Israel and Palestine, or Malaysia's facilitation of the Philippines-Mindanao peace talks. A fastidious point perhaps, but one made in order to emphasise a

missed opportunity by the editors to shift the focus from commonly-raised cases of third party conflict management (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq) to a more global selection. Such a shift would also challenge the Western-centric view of international interventions as only conducted by European and North American powers, or international non-governmental organisations. Perhaps this could be the subject of Rudolph and Lahneman's next edited volume.

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